

Introduced by Senator Scott

February 22, 2005

An act to add Section 42127.83 to the Education Code, relating to public schools, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 897, as introduced, Scott. County Office FCMAT: school business officials: training.

Existing law establishes the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team to provide, among other things, fiscal management assistance at the request of any school district or county office of education.

This bill would require the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team to facilitate training in all areas of classified management services and to develop a corresponding training curriculum that meets the identified needs of local educational agencies and that focuses the training on improving the competency of local educational agency officials and the management of local educational agency funds and resources, leading to certification of competency in all areas of business management and financial services.

The bill would require the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team to provide to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, the chairs of the education policy and the fiscal committees of the Legislature, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee an annual report on the training services.

The bill would make implementation of these provisions contingent on funding being appropriated for that purpose in the annual Budget Act.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) California public education is a huge industry—about the
4 third largest in the state. In the 2004–05 fiscal year it is estimated
5 that California will spend approximately 53 billion dollars of
6 taxpayer funds on direct education services.

7 (b) In order to improve fiscal accountability and to expand the
8 fiscal competency of local educational agencies, the state is
9 committed to expanding fiscal and administration training. The
10 development of a quality training service, in accord with
11 well-designed certification standards for business positions, will
12 fill a need that can help to protect the state and its taxpayers in
13 the management of the education resources.

14 (c) The management of school entities requires persons having
15 capability in school district budgeting, accounting, data
16 processing, telecommunications, risk management, food services,
17 pupil transportation, purchasing and warehousing, facilities
18 maintenance and operation, and personnel administration,
19 organization, and staffing.

20 (d) In order to provide the strongest resources for the direct
21 instruction of pupils, California must have well-trained managers
22 directing school district support functions. The effective
23 management of education's fiscal resources will also help to
24 avoid the obligation of the state to provide emergency funding
25 for school agencies.

26 (e) Staff development for fiscal accountability and
27 competency purposes is not achieved by a one-time effort. These
28 efforts must be continued on an ongoing basis in order to achieve
29 fiscal services of the highest quality and to provide effective
30 supportive services for the operation of the school district.

(f) The state has created the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) to provide assistance to school districts that have weaknesses in the management of fiscal resources. FCMAT has also been given the responsibility to facilitate training of fiscal officers, but the training budget for all services has been limited to an annual appropriation of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for the entire state's needs.

SEC. 2. Section 42127.83 is added to the Education Code, immediately following Section 42127.8, to read:

42127.83. (a) The County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team shall do all of the following:

(1) Facilitate training in all areas of classified management services and develop a corresponding training curriculum that meets the identified needs of local educational agencies and focuses the training on improving the competency of school district officials and the management of school district funds and resources.

(2) Provide training that leads to certification of competency in all areas of business management services.

(3) In developing the curriculum pursuant to paragraph (1), the team shall consult with all of the following:

(A) The Superintendent.

(B) The Department of Finance.

(C) The Secretary for Education.

(D) The California Association of School Business Officials.

(E) School districts.

(F) County offices of education.

(G) Business, accounting, and educational management associations and organizations.

(4) Select a statewide association to develop and recommend certification standards in each of the primary disciplines of the business office. The standards shall include coursework that will lead to a high level of competency within the discipline and an internship of direct, hands-on work between a prospective certification candidate and a school district. The team shall recommend proposed standards, as it deems appropriate, to the Superintendent for approval by the Superintendent.

(5) Provide to the Superintendent, the State Board of Education, the chairs of the education policy and the fiscal committees of the Legislature, the Joint Legislative Budget

1 Committee, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee an annual
2 report on the training services that have been offered pursuant to
3 this section. The report shall be provided by January 1 of each
4 year following the fiscal year for which the report was generated.

5 (b) School districts and county offices of education shall be
6 reimbursed, subject to standards established by the County Office
7 Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team board, for
8 expenses incurred for enrollment of their employees in training
9 that applies towards the certification of business officials.
10 Reimbursement shall only be made for courses that will lead
11 toward certification of the employee in a business area and shall
12 be available for up to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per
13 employee. Claims for reimbursement pursuant to this subdivision
14 and training attendance and certification shall be subject to
15 review by annual audit.

16 SEC. 3. Implementation of Section 42127.83 of the Education
17 Code is contingent on funding being appropriated for that
18 purpose in the annual Budget Act.

19 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
20 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety
21 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go
22 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

23 The fiscal crisis facing this state and the need for the fiscal
24 competency of local educational agencies in managing education
25 resources necessitate that this act go into effect immediately .